

AG-055D

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

On December 19, 1977 Miguel Angel Estrella, an Argentinian pianist of international renown, was kidnapped in Montevideo Uruguay. Since then, he has been held in prison. As soon as the news reached Europe and Latin America, artists, scientists and other intellectuals started working for his release. For this purpose, a committee was organized in France and telegrams were sent to the Vatican, the United Nations, UNESCO, and the Red Cross, among other institutions, asking for their mediation to achieve Estrella's liberty. Telegrams were also sent by several outstanding musical personalities to the President of Argentina, General Jorge Videla and the President of Uruguay, Aparicio Mendez.

Among the outstanding scientists and artists who have asked for Estrella's release are Francois Jacob (Nobel Prize winner), Andre Lwoff (Nobel Prize winner), Alfred Kastler (Nobel Prize winner), Francois Gros (Director of the Pasteur Institute in Paris), Yehudi Menuhin, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Jean Louis Barrault, Pierre Boulez, Martha Argerich, Daniel Barenboim, Leonard Bernstein, Nadia Boulanger, Olivier Messiaen, Teresa Berganza, Andre Previn, Jean Pierre Rampal, and Sir Michael Tippett. Up to this day more than 5,000 signatures have been sent in petitions to the President of Uruguay pleading for Estrella's release, but to no avail.

Miguel Angel Estrella was born in Argentina and had his musical training in Buenos Aires, London and Paris where he studied with Marguerite Long, Magda Tagliaferro, Yvonne Loriod, Maria Curcio, Tamara Osborn, Vlado Perlemuter, Ilona Kabos, and Nadia Boulanger. He has been a judge in many important international competitions and has obtained numerous prizes. Among them may be mentioned: National Arts Foundation, Jeunesses Musicales, National Cultural Society, International Pro-Musicis, Ambassade de France, British Council, and Ford Foundation.

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